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bcc

Subject STB Environmental Assessment #AB-55(Sub-No. 638x)

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review in consultation with the Division of Wildlife and other divisions within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, other applicable laws and regulations, and on our experience as a resource management agency. These concerns/comments do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

I have reviewed the documents for 03-0202; STB Environmental Assessment #AB-55. The site is located in Middlebury, Wayne, and Morris Twp., Knox Co., Fredericktown Quadrangle. Our Natural Heritage Database contains records of rare species or unique natural features near the proposed project. The attached maps display the locations of these records and correspond to the list below. Bob Fletcher of the Division of Wildlife should be consulted regarding rare animal species. He can be reached at (614) 265-6308.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Eastern Hellbender	Endangered
<i>Scirpus expansus</i>	Woodland Bulrush	Potentially Threatened

There are no state nature preserves or scenic rivers in the vicinity of the site. However, the site is near the Knox Lake Wildlife Area. Jim Lehman of the Division of Wildlife should be consulted regarding possible impacts to this area. He can be reached at (614) 644-3925.

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ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 614/265-6411



map #2 stb env assess #ab-55.jpg map #1 stb env assess #ab-55.jpg